

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, said common carrier apparatus having converting means for performing protocol
5 conversion between a communication protocol adopted in said wireless communication network and a communication protocol used in said network, and accounting processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus, said common carrier
10 apparatus comprising:

payer-information storage means for storing a first identification information associated with information specified by an information provider who provides said information server apparatus with said information, said first identification information being stored together
15 with a payer information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said information;

means for deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred from said portable terminals or information transferred from said information server apparatus has a specified payer, by
20 comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus, with said first identification information; and

payer processing means for, if said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus has the specified payer, informing said accounting processing means of said second identification information and the payer specified by said payer information stored in said payer-information storage means,

30 wherein said accounting processing means performs an accounting processing on the payer informed by said payer processing means.

2. A common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, said common carrier apparatus having converting means for performing protocol
5 conversion between a communication protocol adopted in said wireless communication network and a communication protocol used in said network, and accounting processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus; said common carrier
10 apparatus comprising:

payer-information storage means for storing a first identification information associated with information specified by an information provider who provides said information server apparatus with said information, said first identification information being stored together
15 with a payer information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said information;

means for deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred from said portable terminals or information transferred from said information server apparatus has a specified payer, by
20 comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus, with said first identification information; and

inserting means for, if said information acquisition request or
25 said information transferred from said information server apparatus has the specified payer, inserting said second identification information

and a payer information indicative of a payer specified by said payer information stored in said payer-information storage means, into said information acquisition request or into said information transferred
 30 from said information server apparatus,

wherein said accounting processing means refers to said inserted payer information and performs an accounting processing on said specified payer.

3. A common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, comprising:

5 converting means for performing protocol conversion between a communication protocol adopted in said wireless communication network and a communication protocol used in said network; and

accounting processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus,

10 wherein said accounting processing means refers to a payer information which has been previously inserted in information transferred from said information server apparatus and is indicative of a payer of rate for calls, and performs an accounting processing on a specified payer.

4. A common carrier apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising accounting managing means for registering in said payer-information storage means an identification information and a payer information, with respect to information registered in said
 5 information server apparatus.

5. A common carrier apparatus according to claim 2, further

comprising accounting managing means for registering in said
 payer-information storage means an identification information and a
 payer information, with respect to information registered in said
 5 information server apparatus.

6. A common carrier apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
 said first and second identification information include any one of
 Universal Resource Identifier (URI), Uniform Resource Locator (URL),
 an Internet Protocol address, and an electronic-mail address.

7. A common carrier apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
 said first and second identification information include any one of
 Universal Resource Identifier (URI), Uniform Resource Locator (URL),
 an Internet Protocol address, and an electronic-mail address.

8. An accounting processing method used in a common carrier
 apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless
 communication network and an information server apparatus is linked
 via a network, said common carrier apparatus having accounting
 5 processing means for charging a communication fee required for
 communications between said portable terminals and said information
 server apparatus, comprising the steps of:

storing a first identification information associated with
 information specified by an information provider who provides said
 10 information server apparatus with said information, said first
 identification information being stored together with a payer
 information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said
 information;

deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred
 15 from said portable terminals or information transferred from said

information server apparatus has a specified payer, by comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus, with said first identification information;

20 designating a payer together with said second identification information, if said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus has the specified payer, wherein said payer has been specified by said payer information stored in said storing step; and

25 performing an accounting processing on said payer designated in said designating step.

9. An accounting processing method used in a common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, said common carrier apparatus having accounting
5 processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus, comprising the steps of:

10 storing a first identification information associated with information specified by an information provider who provides said information server apparatus with said information, said first identification information being stored together with a payer information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said information;

15 deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred from said portable terminals or information transferred from said information server apparatus has a specified payer, by comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said

information server apparatus, with said first identification information;

20 inserting said second identification information and a payer
information indicative of a payer specified by said payer information
stored in said storing step, into said information acquisition request or
into said information transferred from said information server
apparatus, if said information acquisition request or said information
25 transferred from said information server apparatus has the specified
payer; and

performing an accounting processing on said specified payer with
reference to said inserted payer information.

10. An accounting processing method used in a common carrier
apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless
communication network and an information server apparatus is linked
via a network, comprising the steps of:

5 performing protocol conversion between a communication protocol
adopted in said wireless communication network and a communication
protocol used in said network;

charging a communication fee required for communications
between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus;
10 and

performing an accounting processing on a specified payer with
reference to a payer information which has been previously inserted in
information transferred from said information server apparatus and is
indicative of said payer who pays rate for calls.

11. An accounting processing method according to claim 8,
further comprising a step of managing accounting so as to register an
identification information and a payer information with respect to
information registered in said information server apparatus.

12. An accounting processing method according to claim 9, further comprising a step of managing accounting so as to register an identification information and a payer information with respect to information registered in said information server apparatus.

13. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for performing an accounting processing in a common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, said common carrier apparatus having accounting processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus, said computer program product including:

computer readable program code means for storing a first identification information associated with information specified by an information provider who provides said information server apparatus with said information, said first identification information being stored together with a payer information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said information;

computer readable program code means for deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred from said portable terminals or information transferred from said information server apparatus has a specified payer, by comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus, with said first identification information;

computer readable program code means for designating a payer together with said second identification information, if said information

acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus has the specified payer, wherein said payer has been specified by said payer information; and

computer readable program code means for performing an
 30 accounting processing on said designated payer.

14. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for performing an accounting processing in a common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a
 5 wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, said common carrier apparatus having accounting processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus, said computer program product
 10 including:

computer readable program code means for storing a first identification information associated with information specified by an information provider who provides said information server apparatus with said information, said first identification information being stored
 15 together with a payer information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said information;

computer readable program code means for deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred from said portable terminals or information transferred from said information server
 20 apparatus has a specified payer, by comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus, with said first identification information;

computer readable program code means for inserting said second

25 identification information and a payer information indicative of a payer
 specified by said payer information, into said information acquisition
 request or into said information transferred from said information
 server apparatus, if said information acquisition request or said
 information transferred from said information server apparatus has the
 30 specified payer; and

computer readable program code means for performing an
 accounting processing on said specified payer with reference to said
 inserted payer information.

15. A computer program product comprising a computer usable
 medium having computer readable program code means embodied in
 said medium for performing an accounting processing in a common
 carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a
 5 wireless communication network and an information server apparatus
 is linked via a network, said computer program product including:

computer readable program code means for performing protocol
 conversion between a communication protocol adopted in said wireless
 communication network and a communication protocol used in said
 10 network;

computer readable program code means for charging a
 communication fee required for communications between said portable
 terminals and said information server apparatus; and

15 computer readable program code means for performing an
 accounting processing on a specified payer with reference to a payer
 information which has been previously inserted in information
 transferred from said information server apparatus and is indicative of
 said payer who pays rate for calls.